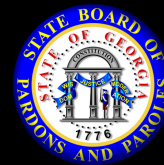


August 2012

GEORGIA PAROLE DISCOVERY A whole new world!

State Board of Pardons
and Paroles

Albert Murray,
Chairman

Terry Barnard,
Vice Chairman

Robert Keller, Member
James Donald, Member
James Mills, Member

I hope that everyone had a great summer. It's hard to believe that it's almost over. As the transition from summer to the start of school begins, it reminds me of the awesome responsibility we have as an agency to protect the public.

While there are many different views on rights and privileges, there is no doubt that public safety is a right afforded to all citizens. Protecting the public isn't all about incarceration.

Protecting the public can come about just as easily, and certainly more affordable, by offering offenders the opportunity to change and assisting in facilitating change while in the community. Public protection is also achieved by making informed release considerations and appropriately balancing the offender's risk to reoffend with the ability and willingness to change. Furthermore, public safety is best achieved when resources and support functions are applied to the roles and responsibilities directly associated with our core mission.

Our responsibility of public safety doesn't fall on any one particular division within our agency. It falls collectively on our agency and requires us all to work together in our respective roles to make us successful. Regardless of your specific role in Clemency, Field Operations or Operations Support, never forget that you're a valuable contributor in making Georgia safer. Keep up the great work!

Parole Supervision

Jay Lacienski, Director of Field Operations

Alternatives to Revocation for Technical Violators

Georgia's parole officers are skillfully seeking alternatives to revocation for technical parole violators by focusing on the root causes of criminality such as substance abuse. Placement of the parolee in a treatment bed vs. a prison cell simply makes more sense from a public safety, fiscal and humane perspective. Parole officers use Spectrum drug treatment groups to address these critical issues before new criminal behavior escalates and unavoidably leads to re-incarceration. Repeat drug users may be sent to a prison based substance abuse program at Valdosta or Whitworth. A Day Reporting or Transition Center may also be utilized to address chronic substance abusers.

By focusing on the causes of criminal behavior, Georgia's parole officers have dramatically reduced the number of parole revocations purely for technical offenses. In calendar year 2011, an average of 20 paroles or 9.1% were revoked each month for technical only violations. During the first six months of 2012 that number has dropped even further to 10.7 per month or 4.7% of our revocations.

Director Lacienski notes: "This is a total team effort. Our officers are focused on those we can help overcome their addiction while moving swiftly to ensure we incarcerate those who threaten public safety."

Did you know? Parole officers can monitor 15% of their caseloads in as little as 5 minutes per day with the AnyTrax contact center system, allowing more focus on high risk parolees.

Last year, the Board collectively cast nearly 70,000 votes.

Director's Corner

Michael Nail, Director of Parole

Clemency Division

Melodee Stewart, Director of Clemency

All Things CONS

For the past year and a half, the process of preparing a case for consideration by the Board has been done electronically in CONS, the Clemency On-line Navigation System. The lengthy transition from paper to an electronic environment has been a monumental feat for the Clemency Division that, despite its inherent challenges, has significantly improved our business processes and furthered our partnership with the Georgia Department of Corrections.

In the previous business model, a paper file was systematically circulated among different work units, each specializing in varying aspects of either the consideration or releases processes. Today however, the "file" is completely electronic and created once a sentence package is electronically received from GDC.

The first of its kind in the nation, the CONS application was designed to reduce the time involved in preparing a case for the Board and provide for an increase in the number of cases reviewed by the Board each year. As enhancements to the application continue to increase our efficiency within the Clemency Division, other units, such as Warrants and Violations, are examining their procedures in consideration of automating their processes that have a direct impact on the Clemency Division's operations.

Operations Support

Scott Maurer, Director Operations Support

Probation/Parole Certification

Did you know that there is a new peace officer certification in Georgia? On June 7th, Georgia P.O.S.T. council unanimously approved the new Probation/Parole Officer certification and companion 320 hour basic training curriculum. This certification and basic training curriculum was developed by the Parole Training Academy and DOC Probation Training Unit.

Students who complete the new eight week course can now work for either agency without being required to complete an agency specific basic training course. This will eliminate redundant training and get officers out in the field performing full peace officer duties much quicker. Also, since the eight week program will be delivered by both agencies a total of six times per year, managers will now be able choose between any of the six courses depending upon hire date.

The days are gone when managers would be forced to wait five months to get a new hire into a basic class. The new certification and new basic training curriculum are crucial "next practice" enhancements that will result in streamlined business practices, cost savings, and most importantly, a better trained community corrections officer.